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**From:** Alexandra Lamb [gwrenn@ucla.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2004 1:24 PM  
**To:** ADMIN-S&E  
**Subject:** National Environmental Policy Act draft directive

Environmental Planning  
Office of Safety and Environmental Programs Management Directorate Department of Homeland  
Security Washington, DC 20528

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to comment on the Department of Homeland Security's draft directive for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (Federal Register, July 16, 2004).

I am extremely concerned that the proposed directive would undermine the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with the broad application of categorical exclusions and the inclusion of non-classified information that could be withheld from public disclosure.

The intent of the NEPA is to allow public review of agency actions that may adversely affect the environment and public health and safety. The proposed broad application of categorical exclusions would include activities that would certainly adversely affect critical wildlife habitat as well as public health and safety, including waste and hazardous material disposal, emergency response training, barrier and fence construction, and logging.

I strongly oppose this proposal and urge the Department of Homeland Security to limit the application of categorical exclusions and retain the requirement that only classified information may be withheld from public disclosure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Lamb  
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